

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Robert F. RIOUX et al.

Examiner: Brian E. Pellegrino

Serial No.: 09/935,487

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: August 23, 2001

Confirmation No.: 1401

For: **MAINTAINING AN OPEN PASSAGEWAY THROUGH A BODY
LUMEN**

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REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 1, 2009, the deadline for response is March 1, 2010, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and reply.

Applicants do not believe that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in the documents accompanying this paper. If additional extensions of time are necessary, however, to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 CFR 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.